

## XXVII.—Description of three new Genera and Species of Snakes.

By J. E. GRAY, Esq.

THE greater part of the genera of innocuous Colubrine Snakes have only a small number of shields on the sides of the lips, the eyes being generally placed over the fourth, or the suture between the fourth and fifth upper labial shields. In the very long-headed genera, as *Dryophis*, the eye is over the fifth, and in one species, *D. Catesbyi*, it is over the suture between the fifth and sixth. *Periops* of Wagler and *Chilolepis* of Fitzinger, exhibit the greatest number of these shields amongst the snakes hitherto recorded; the eyes in them are placed over the fifth, sixth and seventh shields, which are of small size. In the two genera I am about to notice the shields are large, and the eye is placed over the suture between the sixth and seventh shields.

1. CYNOPHIS.—Head moderate, elongate, rather compressed on the sides; crown flat, shielded, frontal shields four, anterior small between the nasals, hinder larger, bent down on the sides; vertebral elongate, narrower behind; superciliary shield narrow in front, wider behind and bent down on the outer side; occipital shields large, elongate, subtrigonal; nostrils rather large, lateral, between two shields, the hinder rather the largest; loreal shields moderate; one very large, squarish, five-sided, anterior and a small posterior ocular; temple with elongate shields, the upper one linear, oblique, margining the occipital; rostral shield rather broad and high, subtrigonal, convex; upper labial shields rather large, the five front ones rather narrow and high, the sixth and seventh broader, placed under and forming the lower margin of the orbit, the eighth, ninth and tenth rather large, subtrigonal, with the temporal shield above them; the lower rostral small, the first, second, third and fourth lower labial narrow, the fifth and sixth much larger and broader, the hinder ones rather narrow; chin shield two pair, elongate, strap-shaped. Eyes rather large, pupil round. Body elongate, compressed; back rounded; belly flattened; scales lanceolate, closely imbricate, smooth, the lower series rather broadest; ventral shield rather broad, flat in the middle, and rather angularly bent up on the sides. Tail rather short, slender, conical, tapering; subcaudal plates two-rowed, flat on the inner and somewhat bent up on the outer sides.

This snake has somewhat the external appearance of a small *Boa*.

*Cynophis bistrigatus*.—Yellow, rather paler beneath; a narrow erect streak under the eyes on the suture of the sixth and seventh, and an oblique one from the back edge of the eyes to the suture of the eighth and ninth upper labial, a short broad streak on each

side of the occiput, and an oblique streak on each side of the neck, and four or six spots forming cross bands on the front of the body black, a broad brown streak on the sides of the hinder part of the body.

Inhab. Ceylon. Presented by R. Templeton, Esq.

2. *ALOPECOPHIS*.—Head rather elongated, somewhat flattened on the sides; crown flat, shielded, frontal plates four; anterior moderate between the nasals, slightly bent down on the side, hinder large, broad, bent down on the side; vertebral broad, narrower behind; superciliary large, broader behind; occipital large, sub-trigonal; nostril lateral between two nearly equal plates; loreal plate elongate, narrow; anterior ocular very large, subtrigonal, the upper edge forming part of the crown; posterior oculars two, the upper large, the lower very small; temporal shields elongate, the two upper edging the occipital plate; rostral shield very broad, rather low, convex above; labial of both jaws similar, moderate and rather high, sixth and seventh upper rather larger, under and forming the lower edge of the orbit, the tenth rather elongate; chin shield two pair, hinder smaller. Eyes rather large, pupil round. Body rather compressed; back rounded beneath flattened; scales lanceolate, imbricate, smooth; ventral shield rather broad, flat, angularly bent up on the side. Tail about one-third the length of the body, slender, tapering, sub-trigonal, flat beneath, subcaudal plate two-rowed.

This genus chiefly differs from the former in the elongated form of the loreal, the height of the anterior ocular, the two posterior oculars, and in the greater equality in the labial shields.

*Alopecophis chalybeus*.—Purplish brown, edge of the scales rather darker; lips and beneath paler, with a very narrow rather darker line along the upper edge of the upper labial shields.

Inhab. Mauritius.

The third genus belongs to the tribe *Elapsinæ*, and is one of the largest and most beautiful-coloured of that deadly tribe.

3. *MEGÆROPHIS*.—Head small, scarcely wider than the body, rounded in front; crown flat; nostrils large, open, lateral. Eyes lateral, large; loreal shield none; fangs distinct, maxillary teeth few. Body triangular; scales of the sides elongate, six-sided, in oblique series five in each, of the vertebral series very broad, transverse; subcaudal plate entire.

This genus has the scaling of *Bungarus* and the small head of *Naja* and *Elaps*.

*Megærophis formosus*.—Bluish black; head, under side, tail, a spot on each vertebral scale, and the upper edge of the lower series of scales yellow.

Inhab. Borneo. Presented to the British Museum by Sir James Brooke.

This species has the colouring of *Elaps bivirgatus*, Müller, and has most probably been mistaken for that species; but it is of a much larger size, and easily known by the large size of the vertebral scales.

In the young specimen the spot on the back and sides forms a nearly continued stripe, and the outer edge of the ventral shield is clouded with black.

British Museum, August 21, 1849.

XXVIII.—*Contributions to the Botany of South America.*

By JOHN MIERS, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S.

[Continued from p. 193.]

SOLANDRA.

I NOTICE this genus, in order to confirm what has been already advanced respecting it in the preceding volume of the 'Annals,' p. 176, when I endeavoured to show that its relation is decidedly with *Juanulloa*, *Marckea* and *Sarcophysa*, constituting with these genera a distinct tribe of the *Atropaceæ* or *Atropineæ*, and in no degree related to *Datura*, with which it has been classed by all botanists heretofore. It will be seen to approach *Juanulloa* in its large tubular calyx, which splits generally on one side, in consequence of the growth of its large fleshy berry, in the structure of which there exists a considerable resemblance in both genera, but it differs from that genus, in its much larger and more campanular corolla. It bears also great analogy with *Brunsfelsia*, in its large, yellow, fleshy border, with five rounded lobes, greatly fimbriated on their margins, and deeply imbricated in æstivation, and also in its large berry filled with pulp; but it differs from this last-mentioned genus, in its general habit and in the structure of its stamens. It will serve to connect the *Solandreae* with the *Brunsfelsiæ*, and in the linear arrangement shown in the tabular view, p. 176, as above quoted, it should have been placed below *Ectozoma*, and immediately preceding *Brunsfelsia*. I have not been able to examine its seeds or to find any analysis of its structure, any farther than that the embryo is said to be arcuate; in this respect it will probably resemble *Juanulloa*, *Marckea* and *Franciscea*, where it is terete, nearly straight or only slightly bent, with short, ovate cotyledons. The following is offered as an amended generic character:—

SOLANDRA, Swartz. (Char. emend.)—*Calyx* 5-sepalus, persistens; *sepala* lanceolata, acuta, marginibus in tubum longum, cylindraceum, 5-angulatum, inæqualiter et breviter 2-3-partitum, demum hinc fissum, valvatis conniventia. *Corolla*